

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5853

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: CULTURAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 096982

1. WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE CULTURAL RELATIONS IN THE AMERICAS, KEEPING IN MIND THAT MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ENGAGE LATIN AMERICAN THINKERS, WRITERS, ETC., IS THROUGH ACTIVITIES DEMONSTRATING OUR INTEREST IN THEIR CULTURE:

A) ORGANIZATION OF ANNUAL SHORT COURSES FOR EX-GRANTEES TAUGHT BY VISITING AMERICAN PROFESSORS WITH AMERICAN CELEBRITY AS CLOSING SPEAKER. COURSES TO BE HELD IN LATIN AMERICA.

B) ANNUAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN U.S. BRINGING MUSICIANS, PAINTERS, ACTORS, ETC. FROM LA FOR ONE-TWO WEEKS. HIGHLIGHTS WOULD INCLUDE OPPORTUNITY OBSERVE HIGH CALIBRE US PERFORMANCES IN KENNEDY CENTER OR IN SUMMER CULTURAL CENTER. EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN LATINOS AND AMERICANS IN ADDITION TO ATTENDING EVENING PERFORMANCES.

C) "YOUTH FESTIVAL" IN US ON ANNUAL BASIS, THEME VARYING FROM YEAR TO YEAR (I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS, FUTUROLOGY, ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE). LATIN YOUTHS WOULD BE HONORED BY TALKS BY IMPORTANT AMERICANS, UNCLASSIFIED

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LUNCHEON AT WHITE HOUSE; EVENINGS COULD FEATURE BEST IN U.S., LATIN ENTERTAINMENT.

D) ANNUAL AWARD TO HONOR LATIN AMERICAN MAKING OUTSTANDING CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN THE AMERICAS. AWARD SELECTION COULD BE CHanneled THROUGH US CULTURAL ENTITY WITH CORRESPONDING NAME FOR AWARD SUCH AS KENNEDY CENTER ANNUAL PAN AMERICAN

PRIZE. ANNUAL CEREMONY COULD BE HELD IN WINNER'S COUNTRY OR IN US WITH ATTENDANCE BY OUTSTANDING US CULTURAL FIGURES.

E) PROGRAM OF TRANSLATION OF LATIN AMERICAN AUTHORS INTO ENGLISH WITH COOPERATION OF LA MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION. ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN THE US OR IN A LA COUNTRY WOULD HONOR THE WRITER(S) CHOSEN. SAME IDEA COULD BE EXPANDED INTO AREAS OF MUSIC, ART, ETC.

F) DEVELOP PROGRAMS OF ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE, ESPECIALLY AMERICANS IN LATIN AMERICA. MUSIC, DANCE, THEATER ARE FIELDS WHERE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE WELCOME ON MORE SUSTAINED BASIS. THIS COULD HAVE GREAT IMPACT GIVEN EMPHASIS ACCORDED CULTURE IN LA.

G) DEVELOP SERIES OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUES FOR OPERATIONAL LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF US AND LATIN AMERICA IN PRIORITY FIELDS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION BETWEEN EMBASSIES AND GOVERNMENTS.

H) GIVE MORE FACILITATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SISTER CITY PROGRAMS TO SPONSOR EXCHANGES AND TO ESTABLISH INFORMATIONAL-CULTURAL CENTERS IN PAIRED US AND LA CITIES. PROGRAMS COULD FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH FILMS, BOOKS, SPEAKERS, ETC.

I) BROADEN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL TO INCLUDE ENGLISH INSTRUCTION PRIOR TO STUDY. PRESENT ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS ELIMINATE PRACTICALLY ALL EXCEPT THOSE WHO CAN ALREADY PAY FOR STUDY IN U.S.

J) ENCOURAGE FORMATION OF FULBRIGHT OR SIMILAR COMMITTEES IN LA COUNTRIES NOT NOW HAVING THEM IN ORDER BROADEN SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EXCHANGE TO US IN THOSE COUNTRIES.
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